

The Key to Holy Scripture

A truth that needs constant reiteration is that the possession of a child-like heart is absolutely essential to a real understanding of the Scriptures. When Joan of Arc was taunted by her ecclesiastical judges with the fact that the wonders she recounted were not found in their books, she replied: "My Lord hath a book in which are written many things which even the most learned clerks and scholars have never come across." Learning is useful, learning is necessary, but the truest lore is that of the heart.

The Bible

W. E. Gladstone.

"Heaven and earth shall pass away, but My words shall not pass away." As they have lived and wrought, so they will live and work. From the teacher's chair and from the pastor's pulpit, in the humblest hymn that ever mounted to the ear of God from beneath a cottage roof, and in the rich, melodious choir of the noblest cathedral, "their sound is gone out into all lands, and their words unto the ends of the world." Nor here alone, but in a thousand silent and unsuspected forms will they unweariedly prosecute their holy office. Who doubts that, times without number, particular portions of Scripture find their way to the human soul as if embassies from on high, each with its own commission of comfort, of guidance, or of warning? What crisis, what trouble, what perplexity of life has failed, or can fail, to draw from this inexhaustible treasure house its proper supply? What profession, what position, is not daily and hourly enriched by these words which repetition never weakens, which carry with them now, as in the days of their first utterance, the freshness of youth and immortality? When the solitary student opens all his heart to drink them in, they will reward his toil. And in forms yet more hidden and withdrawn, in the retirement of the chamber, in the stillness of the night season, upon the bed of sickness, and in the face of death, the Bible will be there, its several words how often winged with their several and special messages to heal and to soothe, to uplift and uphold, to invigorate and stir. Nay, more, perhaps, than this; amid the crowds of the court, or the forum, or the street, or the market place, when every thought of every soul seems to be set upon the excitements of ambition, or of business, or of pleasure, there too, even there, the still small voice of the holy Bible will be heard, and the soul, aided by some blessed word, may find wings like a dove, may flee away and be at rest.

When men ask us what we believe, our answer should be, "It is not *what* I believe, but it is in *whom* I believe." "I know *whom* I have believed." I should have a personal knowledge of the person in whom I believe. Christians have nothing to do with "its" in their belief. Our creed and our blessing are vitally connected with Christ; more than that, they are Christ himself.

The Mission Field

Report of the Missionary Board of the Brethren Church for August

GENERAL FUND

| | |
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| Balance on hand, | \$ 7 89 |
| M. O. Horne, Columbus, O., | 35 |
| Mary A. Snyder, Glover's Gap, W. Va., | 5 00 |
| Milford church Ind., per M. Brumbaugh, | 3 15 |
| King's Children, Lanark, Ill., | 2 53 |
| Sunday-school at Winona Park, | 26 12 |
| Winona Conference offering, | 13 38 |
| National S. S. C. E. quilt sale, | 14 00 |
| Burn's Chapel, Ind., per F. Cook, | 50 |
| Walter Clark, cent per month offering, | 86 |
| Hazel Rober, | 5 00 |
| Mrs. A. D. Gnagey, Ashland, O., | 2 74 |
| Bertha Gnagey, " " | 2 74 |
| Emma Gnagey, " " | 2 74 |
| A. D. Gnagey, " " | 5 48 |
| Boat collection, Winona Lake, | 2 52 |
| California church, per M. Shively, | 7 00 |
| Mrs. J. Cunningham, Loree, Ind., | 2 50 |
| H. C. Williams, Lansdale, Pa., | 1 00 |
| Will and Ida Meyers, Nevada, Mo., | 2 00 |
| | \$ 107 50 |

WASHINGTON FUND

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|---------------------------------------|----------|
| Mrs. W. Miller, Calvin, Iowa, | \$ 2 00 |
| Mrs. S. M. Snader, Keller, W. Va., | 1 00 |
| Penna., S. S. C. E., | 5 00 |
| Roanoke church Va., per D. C. Moomaw, | 2 75 |
| Washington City church, | 12 69 |
| | \$ 23 44 |

DAYTON FUND

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|-------------------------------|---------|
| Mrs. W. Miller, Calvin, Iowa, | \$ 2 00 |
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CHICAGO FUND

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|--------------------------------------|----------|
| Mrs. Henry Livengood, Milledgeville, | \$ 6 00 |
| Henry Livengood, " " | 6 00 |
| Mrs. Lizzie Fike, " " | 1 00 |
| Gus Salzmon, " " | 1 80 |
| Mrs. Mary Flemming, " " | 1 00 |
| Public offering, " " | 3 50 |
| | \$ 19 30 |

Total receipts, \$ 152 24

EXPENDITURES

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| To rent, Oakley Ave., church, Chicago, | \$ 20 00 |
| To literature Chicago mission, | 13 70 |
| To cash, Clara Shroyer, | 5 00 |
| To rent, West Side Mission, Chicago, | 22 00 |
| To cash paid direct to W. M. Lyon, | 20 44 |
| To cash paid direct to Sadie Gibbons, | 19 30 |
| To No. 35, W. M. Lyon, | 25 58 |
| | \$ 126 02 |

Cash in hand, \$ 26 22

FOREIGN FUND

| | |
|--------------------------------|-----------|
| Balance on hand, | \$ 195 26 |
| Mrs. W. Miller, | 1 00 |
| King's Children, Lanark, Ill., | 61 |
| | \$ 196 87 |

JACOB C. CASSEL,
Sec. M. B. of the B. C.

WASHINGTON CITY ECHOES

O yes, I forget to tell you in my last of the visit of Brother Swinehart, of Masontown, Pa., to our city. It was short, but we appreciated it; only sorry he could not be with us over Sunday. Glad to learn that he is in sympathy with missions and has promised to give his congregations a chance to help the work here. Give them a chance! Strange way of putting it, you say. Well, that may be true, yet such is a fact. Many pastors,

I fear fail to give their people a chance, feeling that if they do it will lessen their own salary. A great mistake this. Prove it. Let every congregation now in favor of missions tell how much they give their present pastor, and then compare with what they paid their pastor prior to the time when they began taking stock in missions. As a rule (possibly there may be some exceptions) those congregations that are enthused with the spirit of missions, are those where the best salaries are paid. Yes, brother, it will richly pay you, even financially, to just give your people a chance to help along the mission cause. If you don't believe it, just try it one or two years and note the results.

But what is it to give them a chance? This implies,

1. That you are in hearty sympathy with missions yourself.

2. That you teach others along the same line until they are imbued with the same spirit.

3. Then have stated times for voluntary contributions, and be careful that those stated times are not too far apart. What a tremendously large fund we would soon have if every congregation in our brotherhood would just have the chance of giving regularly, say once each month for the entire year! I venture the assertion that our missions would no longer go begging.

And O, what richness and fulness of spiritual blessings and power would be the result! Who will dare to say that this is not gospel teaching? How many believe it? I hear many say, "O yes, I believe it," but remember that you do not believe it if you fail to practice it. Believing is obeying.

Another thing, it had almost slipped my mind again, about those peaches, pears, potatoes, etc., etc., just send them right along if you feel "pressed in the spirit" to do so. I'm sure there are many of our dear people who only want just "half a chance" thus to unload themselves in favor of the missionaries. I've received "hints" to that effect, and as you know, "A hint to the wise is sufficient."

If our missions only had what is going to waste in the brotherhood, (and much of it worse than wasted) they would all be independent, and we would have surplus enough to establish many more missions. This is no extravagant statement, whether you believe it, or not.

Before closing I must not fail to note what gave me a great deal of solid comfort and gratification. I refer to brother Albert Reed's joining with us in the glorious work of gospel liberty. Several years ago it was my happy privilege to visit Brother Reed in Southern Ohio. I have often thought of him and his family since then and I can not express the joy it afforded me to learn that they had also thrown off the yoke of human tradition and have taken the "truth as it is in Jesus" in its stead. The Lord abundantly bless them in their new field and new relation!

And last, tho not least, I must tell you that quite lately we have been encouraged by